**Amendments to the Claims**:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**:

     1.    (currently amended) [[A]] The system ~~for providing services, comprising~~ of claim 23, where the second entity includes:

        a service activation component offering [[an]] the extensible set of services~~; and~~

        ~~a gateway, connected to the service activation component, and configured to provide access control to the services offered by the service activation component~~.


     2.    (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the service activation component is configured to configure a router to deliver [[a]] the service.


     3-7.    (canceled)


     8.    (currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 23, wherein the first entity corresponds to a business partner system and the second entity corresponds to a service activation component, the service activation component provides the ~~services~~ service to a customer associated with [[a]] the business partner system, the business partner system generates [[a]] the message requesting ~~a particular one of the services to obtain~~ the ~~particular~~ service for the customer; and

        wherein the ~~gateway~~ first interface module is further configured to:

            ~~receive the message from the business partner system, and~~

authenticate the business partner system based, at least in part, on information included in the message.

9.     (currently amended)  The system of claim [[1]] 23, wherein the ~~service activation component~~ first entity includes a plurality of service activation components; and

wherein the system further comprises:

a [[SAE]] second entity locator configured to obtain information associated with the service activation components; and

wherein the ~~gateway~~ second interface module is further configured to:

~~receive a message requesting one of the services, and~~

contact the [[SAE]] second entity locator to identify one of the service activation components [[on]] from which to ~~activate~~ request performance of the ~~requested~~ service.

10.     (currently amended)  The system of claim 9, wherein the message includes a subscriber identifier that identifies a subscriber on whose behalf the ~~requested~~ service is being requested; and

wherein the [[SAE]] second entity locator is configured to map the subscriber identifier to the identified one of the service activation components.

11.     (currently amended)  The system of claim [[1]] 23, further comprising:

an extension manager configured to facilitate at least one of modification of services in the extensible set of services [[and]] or addition of new services to the extensible set of services offered by the ~~service activation component~~ second entity.

12.     (currently amended)  The system of claim [[1]] 23, wherein the extensible set of services ~~include~~ includes network services associated with communication on the Internet.

13-15. (canceled)

16.     (currently amended)  The method of claim [[15]] 31, ~~wherein the performing access control further includes~~ further comprising:

rejecting the message ~~unless the determinations are successful~~ if the first result indicates that the first entity is not permitted to request performance of the network service, the second result indicates that the first entity is not permitted to provide the argument, or the third result indicates that the argument is not permissible for the network service.

17.     (canceled)

18.     (currently amended)  The method of claim [[14]] 31, ~~wherein the selectively providing the selected service includes~~ further comprising:

configuring a router to deliver the ~~requested~~ network service to a subscriber.

19.    (canceled)

20.    (currently amended)  The method of claim [[14]] 31, further comprising:

authenticating a business partner system the first entity that transmitted the message

based, at least in part, on information included in the message.

21.    (currently amended)  The method of claim [[14]] 31, wherein the message

includes a subscriber identifier that identifies a subscriber on whose behalf the requested service

is being requested; and

wherein the method further comprises determining a network component on which to

activate the requested service identifying the second entity from a plurality of second entities

based, at least in part, on the subscriber identifier included in the message.

22.    (currently amended)  The method of claim [[14]] 31, wherein the extensible set of

network services include includes network services associated with communication on the

Internet.

23.    (currently amended)  A system service gateway in communication with a first

entity and a second entity, comprising:

a service gateway in communication with a first entity and a second entity, the service

gateway comprising:

a first interface module ~~configured~~ to receive, from the first entity, a message

requesting performance of a service <u>in an extensible set of services offered</u> by the second

entity, the message including a service name <u>that corresponds to the service</u> and an

argument ~~corresponding to~~ <u>that includes data useful in performing</u> the service;

an access control module ~~configured~~ to:

~~determine~~ <u>make a first determination of</u> whether the first entity is

permitted to request performance of the service corresponding to the service

name,

~~determine~~ <u>make a second determination of</u> whether the argument is

~~permissible for an identity of~~ <u>permitted to be provided by</u> the first entity, and

~~determine~~ <u>make a third determination of</u> whether the argument is

~~permissible~~ <u>permitted to be requested</u> for the service corresponding to the service

name; and

a second interface module ~~configured~~ to selectively request performance of the

service [[on]] <u>by</u> the second entity based, at least in part, on results of the <u>first, second,</u>

<u>and third</u> determinations of the access control module.


24.    (currently amended)  The ~~service gateway~~ <u>system</u> of claim 23, wherein the access

control module is further configured to reject the message ~~unless all of the determinations are~~

~~successful~~ <u>if the first determination determines that the first entity is not permitted to request</u>

<u>performance of the service, the second determination determines that the argument is not</u>

permitted to be provided by the first entity, or the third determination determines that the

argument is not permitted to be requested for the service.


25.    (canceled)


26.    (currently amended)  A wholesaler system that provides services to subscribers

associated with a plurality of retailer systems, the wholesaler system comprising:

a service activation component configured to provide the services to the subscribers; and

a service gateway configured to act as a single point of contact between the retailer

systems and the service activation component, the service gateway providing controlled access,

by the retailer systems, to the services provided by the service activation component, the service

gateway permitting each of the retailer systems access to a subset of the services provided by the

service activation component via the controlled access,

the service gateway comprising:

a first interface module to receive, from one of the retailer systems, a message

requesting performance of one of the services by the service activation component, the

message including at least one argument that includes data useful for performing the one

service,

an access control module to:

make a first determination of whether the one retailer system is permitted

to request performance of the one service,

make a second determination of whether the at least one argument is

permissible for the one retailer system, and

make a third determination of whether the at least one argument is valid

for the one service, and

a second interface module to selectively interact with the service activation

component based, at least in part, on the first, second, and third determinations of the

access control module.

27.    (original)  The wholesaler system of claim 26, wherein the services provided by
the service activation component include network services.

28.    (original)  The wholesaler system of claim 26, wherein the services provided by
the service activation component include an extensible set of services.

29.    (original)  The wholesaler system of claim 26, wherein the service gateway and
the service activation component in combination provide a common interface via which the
retailer systems request one or more of the services provided by the service activation
component, the combination exposing subsets of the common interface to each of the retailer
systems by controlling access to the services by the retailer systems.

30.    (canceled)

31.     (currently amended)  A method performed [[by]] in a network that includes a service gateway in communication with a first entity and a second entity, the method comprising:

receiving, from the first entity, a message requesting performance of a network service of an extensible set of network services offered by the second entity, the message including a service name that corresponds to the network service and an argument corresponding to that includes data useful in performing the network service;

generating a first result based, at least in part, on a determination of whether the first entity is permitted to request performance of the network service corresponding to the service name;

generating a second result based, at least in part, on a determination of whether the first entity is permitted to provide the argument;

generating a third result based, at least in part, on a determination of whether the argument is permissible for the network service corresponding to the service name; and

selectively invoking requesting performance of the network service [[on]] by the second entity based, at least in part, on the first, second, and third results.


32.     (canceled)


33.     (new)  The system of claim 23, where the second interface module is configured to request performance of the service when the first determination determines that the first entity is permitted to request performance of the service, the second determination determines that the

argument is permitted to be provided by the first entity, and the third determination determines that the argument is permitted to be requested for the service.

34.     (new)  The system of claim 31, where selectively requesting performance of the network service includes:

requesting performance of the network service when the first result indicates that the first entity is permitted to request performance of the network service, the second result indicates that the first entity is permitted to provide the argument, and the third result indicates that the argument is permissible for the network service.

35.     (new)  A system, comprising:

means for receiving, from a requestor, a message requesting performance of one of a plurality of network services offered by a server, the message including an argument that includes data useful in performing the one network service;

means for performing a first determination of whether the requestor is permitted to request performance of the one network service;

means for performing a second determination of whether the first entity is permitted to provide the argument;

means for performing a third determination of whether the argument is permissible for the one network service; and

means for requesting performance of the one network service by the server based, at least in part, on the first, second, and third determinations.